

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 00062 061718Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
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UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0062

FOR USOAS

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OAS, UY
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION ON OAS NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MVD-0042 STATE 001739

1. NATIONALISTIC PRO-MILITARY "LA MANANA" FRONT-PAGED AN
AFP REPORT DATED WASHINGTON UNDER THE FOUR-COLUMN
HEADING, "OAS: URUGUAY MIGHT PAY COSTS OF ASSEMBLY" AND SUB-
HEADED "THE OFFER DESTROYS THE HIGH COST PRETEXT".

2. IN A BOX SUMMARY "LA MANANA" STATED "URUGUAY MIGHT BE WILLING
TO ASSUME ALL EXPENSES REQUIRED FOR THE TRANSFER OF THE OAS TO
MONTEVIDEO, IN ORDER TO HOLD THE EIGHTH ASSEMBLY (HERE). THIS
WAS REPORTED UNOFFICIALLY YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON, BUT COULD
NOT BE CONFIRMED IN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT CIRCLES. THE PRESS
REPORT FROM AFP POINTS OUT THAT THE OFFER WOULD BE TRANSMITTED
TO THE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL, WHICH HAS BEEN CONVENED TO CONSIDER,
NEXT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, URUGUAY'S REQUEST TO BECOME THE SITE
OF THE MINISTERS CONFERENCE."

3. ACCORDING TO THE AFP DESPATCH PUBLISHED BY "LA MANANA", ONLY
THREE COUNTRIES HAVE ASSUMED AN OPENLY NEGATIVE POSITION ON HAVEING
THE ASSEMBLY IN URUGUAY. THE UNITED STATES, VENEZUELA AND JAMAICA
ARE PREPARED TO REJECT THE OFFER, GIVING AS A PRETEXT THE MEATY
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MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS EXPECTED THAT SEVERAL
COUNTRIES, AMONG THEM COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR, THINK THAT POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS LIKE HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE
SELECTION OF A MEETING SITE."

4. "THE ONLY TENABLE ARGUMENT COUNTRIES IN THAT POSITION
CAN POINT TO IS THE HIGH COST OF AN ASSEMBLY HELD SO FAR FROM THE

PERMANENT SITE, WHICH INCLINES THEM TO A NEGATIVE VOTE. FOR THAT REASON, THE GOU OFFER NOW MADE PUBLIC ONLY UNOFFICIALLY, HAS HELPED DECISIVELY TO REDUCE THE INITIAL OPPOSITION FOR HOLDING THE MEETING OUTSIDE WASHINGTON..."

5. THE AFP ADDS THAT "FEW BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE A DECISION NEXT WEDNESDAY. ACCORDING TO ITS PRESIDENT, GALO LEORO OF ECUADOR, THE QUESTION WILL BE SUBMITTED FIRST TO THE GENERAL COMMISSION, WHOSE DELIBERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS."

6. INDEPENDENT "EL DIA" CARRIED A SHORT ITEM AT THE BOTTOM IT ITS EDITORIAL PAGE UNDER A FOUR-COLUMN HEADING, "URUGUAY STILL INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING OAS MEETING." THE PAPER QUOTED FOREIGN MINISTER ROVIRA EXPLAINING THERE WAS "NOTHING NEW" ON THE SUBJECT. ROVIRA REPEATED THAT "IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO AWAIT THE DECISION OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL." THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD "EL DIA" THAT "URUGUAY IS THE TARGET OF A FORCEFUL CAMPAIGN BY THIRD PARTIES..." ROVIRA THEN RESTATED THE GOU POSITION THAT "EVERYONE CAN CLEARLY APPRECIATE THAT THERE IS NO VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IN URUGUAY.

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